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Taiwan

Grain and Feed

Third Rice Tender Announcement 2005

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Report Highlights:

On August 22nd, Taiwan made its third invitation of public rice tenders for 2005 imports. The three new tenders are for 17,000 and 20,000 tons of medium brown rice, and for 3,000 tons of glutinous short grain milled rice. They are scheduled for September 5 for technical bids and September 7 for price bids. The tender specifications for the glutinous rice are different than the specifications on the tender earlier this year. Specifications for other types of rice have been significantly modified over the last year.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Taipei [TW1]
[TW]

Announcement of the 3rd Public Tender

Taiwan announced public tenders for 17,000 and 20,000 tons of medium brown rice, and for 3,000 tons of glutinous short grain milled rice. The tenders are for crops harvested after July 2004. The technical bids are scheduled for September 5 while the price bids are set for September 7. All bidding documents and rice samples should be submitted to the Central Trust of China (CTC) by 10:00 a.m. September 5, 2005.

Tender No.: GF4-940139

Commodity: 17,000 mt of Medium Grain Brown Rice

Crop Year: July 2004 till 2005

Technical Tender Date: September 5, 2005

Delivery Term: October 21 - December 20

Tender No.: GF4-940140

Commodity: 20,000 mt of Medium Grain Brown Rice

Crop Year: July 2004 till 2005

Technical Tender Date: September 5, 2005

Delivery Term: October 21 - December 20

Tender No.: GF4-940141

Commodity: 3,000 mt of Glutinous Short Grain Milled Rice

Crop Year: July 2004 till 2005

Technical Tender Date: September 5, 2005

Delivery Term: October 21 - November 20

New Type and Quality Specifications for Imported Glutinous Short Grain Milled Rice

1. Type:

(1) Glutinous short grain milled rice.

(2) Length of kernel: <6.5 mm

Method of test for length: randomly sample 50 kernels from sound kernels, measure the length of each kernel, then take the average of the measurement. The weight percentage of out of length standard kernels must be under 10%.

2. Quality Specification:

Maximum Limited									Minimum Limit
Moisture %	Impurities %	Broken Kernels %	Damaged kernels		Off-type Kernels %	Brown Rice %	Paddy %	Non-opaque waxy kernels %	Degree of freshness (PH value)
			Total %	Discolored Kernels %					
13.5	0.1	5	1	0.1	1	0	0	4	6.5

Notes: 1. Product shall not contain insect, insect eggs or residues, and the characters should meet the sanitary standards for general foods which were announced by the department of Health.

2. The characters of appearance should be in accord with that of original sample or be even better.

Specifications Amendments for 2005 Tenders

1. Council of Agriculture (COA) will be paying more attention to the quality of arriving rice. Rice samples submitted for technical bids will be compared to the rice that is actually delivered. COA will pay special attention to differences in visual appearance and odor.
2. COA attaches a maximum limit on kernel length specification at 10% (i.e. 5 kernels out of random sampled 50 kernels) to average kernel length of random sampled 50 kernels. In addition to maximum limits of traditional CNS (Chinese National Standards) quality specifications of previous tenders, there is a new added minimum limit on degree of freshness as determined by Ph values as measured by a BTB-MR methodology. The Ph reading must be 6.7 or above.
3. Taiwan has found an increase population in some insects, such as *Ephestia cautella* W., *Cryptolestes ferrugineus* S. and *Corcyra cephalonica* S., around the public warehouses where imported rice is stored so the minimum concentration of the effective fumigant chemical, phosphoric acid (PH₃) is set at 2 grams per cubic meter. The fumigation certificate must correspond to the new fumigation specification.
4. As for sanitary standards, the new tender specifications require meeting both standards of Taiwan and exporting countries, especially regarding MRLs.
5. Contact information of miller and supplier and milling date are now required on labels.
6. Penalties will be weighed according to individual quality factors.

These amendments to the tender specifications indicate that Taiwan is making efforts to purchase high quality rice. COA is planning to call for suppliers to meet to discuss these new specifications amendments and will be open to comments from all sources.